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First Ascent of Unnamed Peak P6070 (L15) in Zanskar
Gakushuin Alpine Club (GAC) Indian Himalaya Expedition

In 2009 Indian Government opened 104 new peaks for climbing. All of 104 open peaks are in Zanskar and Ladakh areas. Peak Unnamed P6070 (L15) is those of the open peaks and listed as No.45. The application for the 104 open peaks has been simplified, compared to those of other peaks. When IMF (Indian Mountaineering Foundation) receives a mountaineer’s application for climbing a listed open peak, IMF is authorized by the Indian Government to issue climbing permission automatically by their own judge, not consulting with any concerned Government Offices.

Four members of GAC Indian Himalaya Expedition to Zanskar led by Shuhei Yoshida made the first ascent of Peak Unnamed P6070 (L15) in Lenak Valley of Zanskar. The team consisted of three university students and one senior member of Gakushuin University Alpine Club.

Mr. Kimikazu Sakamoto, a senior member of Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto (AACK), led several explorations in the south of Zanskar. He introduced many unknown virgin peaks in this area to the climbers over the world through his expedition reports.

We found P6070 (L15) in his report and were fascinated by its elegant shape. We could see a beautiful snow ridge on the left side and we thought it could be a good route for the summit.
Several expedition parties had already gone to Zanskar and made their first ascents, referring to Mr. Sakamoto’s information. We, GAC Indian Himalaya Expedition, also planned our expedition referring to his detailed information and under his kind assistance.

**Approach to the BC**

On July 31st, we visited Japanese Embassy and IMF office in Delhi. We met Mr. Chandra Shaker, our Liaison Officer, at IMF office. He is thirty-five years old and from Mumbai city. He helped us throughout the expedition. After a two-day stay in Leh, we moved to Anmu which is the opposite village of Tsetan and the terminal of the traffic road.

On August 9th, suddenly an accident happened. When we were walking to Testa, two horses fell from a narrow path under the cliff. The baggage slipped down from the horses into the river. The rapid current of the river carried away our baggage and we couldn't do anything. Two horses escaped by themselves and luckily were not seriously hurt, only with minor cuts. We lost LO’s equipment, eight ice axes, forty snow bars, twenty ice screw pitons, sixty plain carabineers, one bottle of fuel and etc..

On August 10th, we went down to the river to search for the lost baggage. However, we couldn't trace the lost baggage and finally gave up. We decided to send our member to Delhi to buy new equipment.

On August 11th, Masayuki Harada, the senior member of our expedition, and LO started to go back to Delhi in order to purchase climbing equipments. The student members, Shuhei Yoshida, Kazu Ghalamkari, Mizuho Kajita, and local staffs started to go to Lenak valley to set up the BC.

**Climbing to Peak Unnamed P6070 (L15)**

On August 12th, student members and local staffs set up the Base Camp (4830m) in the left branch of Lenak Valley (N33-05-44.7, E77-02-54.8). After setting up the BC, student members made a reconnaissance of east face of P6070 (L15). The lower face was covered with loose rocks and scree was hard to climb. We had to pay careful attention to falling rocks throughout the lower face. We climbed up to 5100m and returned to BC, leaving the cairns on our climbing route.

On August 14th, we made a reconnaissance of west face of Pt6070. The west face had dangerous hanging serac and we judged that the east face was the best route of this mountain.

We went up the loose scree slowly and reached 5300m on August 15th and carried tents and ropes up to the spot at 5400m on August 17th.

On August 20th, four Japanese members went up the loose scree and reached at 5600m. The slope was covered with hard snow from 5400m. We used new ice axes and fixed a 50m rope in the difficult part.

We decided to push the summit in one day because our physical conditions were good.

**To the summit of P6070 (L15)**

August 22th:

We left BC at 5:00am and reached the deposit point at 8:30am. We negotiated hard/solid snow and avoided a big crevasse which was around 300 meters long. Around 11:00am, the slope became steep and we started to climb up safely, one at a time. It was very difficult to use snow bars because the snow was very hard. We ascended six pitches on the knife snow ridge. Then we were on the loose rocks plateau. It was the summit of P6070 (L15). From the summit, we saw many attractive and fascinating virgin peaks that need high climbing skills and experiences. Being wholly excited, we took commemorative photos and went down to our lovely Base Camp eagerly.
BC, we belayed eight pitches of down-climbing. The weather got worse and we had snow. Yoshida felt sick because of less oxygen and finally threw up. We encouraged each other and finally returned to BC at 7:30pm. We left no climbing gears behind. It was the most exciting 14hours in our mountaineering life.

We named this peak “Gyalmo Kangri”. Gyalmo means Queen in Ladakhi. Mr. Kimikzau Sakamoto reported on this peak, “We could see the beautiful snow peak mountain P6070 (L15) and big rock wall mountain P6180 (L14) on our left side. The beautiful elegant mountain P6070 (L15) can be called as Princess of Lenak or Lenak Kangri. The big rocky mountains maybe is King of Lenak.” in The Himalayan Journal Vol.67 2011 ( L15 is a mark named by Mr. Sakamoto ). We were so impressed with his idea and named this peak Gyalmo Kangri, consulting with our Zanskarian guide, Mr. Tsewang Ynagphel.

We really enjoyed the splendid expedition in Zanskar. We were very lucky, because of the good support from our reliable guide, Mr. Tsewang Yangphel, and our LO, Mr. Chandra Shaker. Above all, we would like to express our sincere thankfulness to Mr. Sakamoto’s kind assistance.

There still are many attractive virgin peaks in this area. We hope many expedition teams will try to climb the beautiful mountains in Zanskar with proper procedures, by obtaining an official climbing permission from IMF.